

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

February 13, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Man arrested after shooting at police (0:12)

Setting the Scene



(CBC file photo)

In Canada, people are allowed to own guns, but they are controlled by several laws. For example, people need special licenses before they can buy a gun. There are many rules for keeping guns in the home safely. Also, there are rules about transporting guns from one place to another. Shootings and gun deaths in Canada are fairly uncommon. When a gun-related crime happens, police take special actions to keep communities safe. The police will close public buildings, such as schools, and close streets as well. This helps keep the situation controlled and safe.

Pre-listening Questions

What are some reasons for people to own a gun?

What are the gun laws in your home country? Is it common for people to own guns?

Do you think Canadian gun laws are too severe (strong)? Or not severe enough? Why?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	arrested (v.)	a) unexpected event
_____	locking (v.)	b) stopped resisting the police
_____	incident (n.)	c) fired a gun at
_____	reports (n.)	d) continuing, not ending
_____	suspect (n.)	e) kept by police after committing a crime
_____	shot at (v.)	f) person who might have committed a crime
_____	municipal (adj.)	g) a search for the truth
_____	surrendered (v.)	h) communication to the police about something
_____	investigation (n.)	i) fastening a door so it can't be opened
_____	ongoing (adj.)	j) related to a city or town

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

rifle – type of gun

emergency response team – team in the RCMP who is specially trained for high-risk situations

negotiator – member of the police whose job is to reach an agreement with a criminal

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/ 33yxam>

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Chronological order

Look at the sentences below that describe events in the story. Listen to the story. Number the sentences in the correct order that they happened in time, not the order they appear in the story. You may have to listen to the story more than once. *Answers are in the appendix.*

- a. _____ The RCMP emergency response team and a negotiator were called in.
- b. _____ Police arrived at a home in the community shortly before 5am.
- c. _____ The investigation continues.
- d. _____ Schools, municipal buildings and some streets were closed.
- e. _____ Gunshots were fired in Pincher Creek, southwest of Calgary.
- f. _____ The suspect surrendered peacefully.
- g. _____ The suspect shot at the officers.
- h. _____ The suspect was arrested by the police.

Food for Thought

Do you think Canada is a safe place to live? Why or why not?

How can the government make sure that guns are used safely?

What do you think will happen to the man who was arrested? How should he be punished?

News story #2 Growing number of fentanyl deaths in Alberta (1:24)

Setting the Scene



(Lethbridge Police Service) (CBC file photo)

Fentanyl is a powerful drug. It is normally used to help people who feel very strong pain. It is also given to people who have surgery and feel pain afterwards. Typically, doctors and pharmacists give fentanyl to patients. They also give very clear and specific instructions for how to take the drug. However, fentanyl has a value as a street drug. Some people want to take recreationally (for fun). This can cause serious problems, including death. Those recreational users do not have the same knowledge as a doctor or a pharmacist. They do not necessarily know how much of the drug they can take safely.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever taken medicine/drugs for pain relief? How did they make you feel?

Do you think street drugs are a big problem in Canada?

Do you know of any side effects of drugs? What are they?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Accidental deaths, such as drug **overdoses**, are very sad for the families and loved ones.
 - a. a big number
 - b. deadly amounts
2. The snowstorm caused many car accidents. My neighbour was the **victim** of a crash.
 - a. person affected by a crime
 - b. property damaged by a crime
3. This medicine is **steadily** growing in popularity. More and more people use it every month.
 - a. accidentally
 - b. continuously
4. More and more Canadian children are becoming overweight. Doctors call it a health **crisis**.
 - a. problem with a clear solution
 - b. serious problem
5. For people who need help, health advice is **available** 24/7 on the public health hotline.
 - a. can be accessed
 - b. can be believed
6. The child drank a dangerous chemical by mistake. Luckily, the doctor had an **antidote**.
 - a. medical class
 - b. medical cure
7. Some people develop **addictions** to pain medicine. They feel they need it all the time.
 - a. harmfully constant needs for something
 - b. impatience about something
8. Every fall, you can get your flu shot at any medical **clinic** in the province.
 - a. a place to study medicine
 - b. a place to see a doctor

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

opioid - a substance used in medicine to help patients deal with pain; an addictive substance

client - patient

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Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. _____ The provincial government says 348 Albertans died last year from fentanyl overdoses.
2. _____ 261 of those victims were in Calgary.
3. _____ The numbers have been going up steadily over the past 6 years.
4. _____ The government has announced that Naloxone kits will be available for a low cost.
5. _____ Naloxone can be given to someone who has overdosed to save them.
6. _____ The government will open an opioid addiction treatment clinic.
7. _____ The clinic will open this summer in Grande Prairie.
8. _____ The clinic will be able to serve 300 clients.

Food for thought

Do you think these Naloxone kits will help people? Why or why not?

What else can the government do to help prevent drug-related deaths?

This story discusses opioid addiction. What are some other things people are addicted to?

News story #3 Calgary now Canada's fourth largest city (2:23)

Setting the Scene



(Jeff McIntosh/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Canada's population is growing. There are several factors that cause this growth, including the birth rate and immigration. The population of Alberta is growing steadily, even though the province has experienced an economic downturn, or slowing down, in the past few years. In fact, Alberta has the highest growth rate out of all the Canadian provinces. Its rate of growth is 11.6%. Out of all the cities in Canada, Calgary has the highest growth rate. Since 2011, the city's population increased by 14.6%. It is now the fourth-largest city in Canada.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you prefer living in a big city or a small town?

What are some benefits of city growth? Can you think of any challenges, too?

What are some reasons that populations grow or shrink?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

results (n.)	answers, conclusions
federal (adj.)	relating to the government of a country
census (n.)	an official report of information about a population
released (v.)	published; let something be known publicly
slightly (adj.)	in a small amount
nationally (adv.)	relating to an entire country

1. Canada's population is growing 1% per year, which is _____ higher than the USA's 0.8%.
2. While provincial governments control such items as health care and education, the _____ government controls the military and immigration.
3. The _____ of the research show that most Canadians use the Internet every day.
4. Earl's is a restaurant that is only in western Canada. Tim Horton's, however, is a _____ -known Canadian food company.
5. When the government runs a _____, people answer questions about their age, family, languages, home, and other information.
6. To help the city run smoothly as it grows, City Hall _____ a new plan to invest more in public transit and roads.

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. The census took place in which year?
2. How many people live in Calgary, according to the census?
3. Does this number represent the people in central Calgary only?
4. Calgary is now slightly larger than which Canadian city?
5. According to the census, what has happened to Alberta's population?
6. What is Alberta's population as of 2016?
7. Alberta's population is up by what percentage (%) since 2006?
8. Nationally, what is Canada's population?

Food for thought

Population growth is usually seen in cities and not small towns. Why do you think that is?

Do you think the city of Calgary is changing a lot? What changes have you seen?

What do cities need to do to accommodate population growth?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	FEBRUARY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with the CBC for February 13 th with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	<p>One man was arrested after firing shots from a rifle at police and then locking himself in a home on Wednesday. The incident happened in Pincher Creek, a town of about 3600 people, 215 kilometres southwest of Calgary. Police say they were called to a home in the community shortly before 5 am after reports of gunshots being fired. When officers arrived, police say the suspect shot at them. Officials closed schools, municipal buildings and some streets because of the incident. The RCMP emergency response team and a negotiator were called in. The man surrendered peacefully about 7 hours later. Charges are expected and the investigation is ongoing. No one was hurt during the emergency.</p>	0:12
Story 2	<p>The provincial government says 343 Albertans died last year from fentanyl overdoses. 261 of those victims were in Calgary, and the numbers have been going up steadily over the past three years. To try and fight the growing fentanyl crisis, the government has announced that Naloxone kits will be available for free to all Albertans. Naloxone is an antidote that can be given to someone who has overdosed to save them. The government has also announced it will open an opioid addiction treatment clinic this spring in Grande Prairie. It will be able to serve 300 clients.</p>	1:24
Story 3	<p>Calgary is now Canada's fourth largest city. The results of last year's federal census have been released, and it found that more than 1.4 million people were living in the greater Calgary area. That makes Calgary just slightly larger than Ottawa-Gatineau. The census also found that Alberta's population has gone up, with more than 4 million people living here in 2016. That's up more than 11 per cent since the 2006 census. Nationally, Canada now has more than 35 million people.</p>	2:23

Answer keys

News story 1 Man arrested after shooting at police (0:12)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>e</u>	arrested (v.)	a) unexpected event
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<u>f</u>	suspect (n.)	e) kept by police after committing a crime
<u>c</u>	shot at (v.)	f) person who might have committed a crime
<u>j</u>	municipal (adj.)	g) a search for the truth
<u>b</u>	surrendered (v.)	h) communication to the police about something
<u>g</u>	investigation (n.)	i) fastening a door so it can't be opened
<u>d</u>	ongoing (adj.)	j) related to a city or town

Listening

- a. 5 The RCMP emergency response team and a negotiator were called in.
- b. 2 Police arrived at a home in the community shortly before 5am.
- c. 8 The investigation continues.
- d. 4 Schools, municipal buildings, and some streets were closed.
- e. 1 Gunshots were fired in Pincher Creek, southwest of Calgary.
- f. 6 The suspect surrendered peacefully.
- g. 3 The suspect shot at the officers.
- h. 7 The suspect was arrested by the police.

News story 2 Growing number of fentanyl deaths in Alberta (1:24)

Vocabulary

1. Accidental deaths, such as drug **overdoses**, are very sad for the families and loved ones.
 - a. a big number
 - b. **deadly amounts**
2. The snowstorm caused many car accidents. My neighbour was the **victim** of a crash.
 - a. **person affected by a crime**
 - b. property damaged by a crime
3. This medicine is **steadily** growing in popularity. More and more people use it every month.
 - a. accidentally
 - b. **continuously**
4. More and more Canadian children are becoming overweight. Doctors call it a health **crisis**.
 - a. problem with a clear solution
 - b. **serious problem**
5. For people who need help, health advice is **available** 24/7 on the public health hotline.
 - a. **can be accessed**
 - b. can be believed
6. The child drank a dangerous chemical by mistake. Luckily, the doctor had an **antidote**.
 - a. medical class
 - b. **medical cure**
7. Some people develop **addictions** to pain medicine. They feel they need it all the time.
 - a. **harmfully constant needs for something**
 - b. impatience about something
8. Every fall, you can get your flu shot at any medical **clinic** in the province.
 - a. a place to study medicine
 - b. **a place to see a doctor**

Listening

1. F The provincial government says 348 Albertans died last year from fentanyl overdoses.
2. T 261 of those victims were in Calgary.
3. F The numbers have been going up steadily over the past 6 years.
4. F The government has announced that Naloxone kits will be available for a low cost.
5. T Naloxone can be given to someone who has overdosed to save them.
6. T The government will open an opioid addiction treatment clinic.
7. F The clinic will open this summer in Grande Prairie.
8. T The clinic will be able to serve 300 clients.

News story 3 **Calgary now Canada's fourth largest city (2:23)**

Vocabulary

1. Canada's population is growing 1% per year, which is *slightly* higher than the USA's 0.8%.
2. While provincial governments control such items as health care and education, the *federal* government controls the military and immigration.
3. The *results* of the research show that most Canadians use the Internet every day.
4. Earl's is a restaurant that is only in western Canada. Tim Horton's, however, is a *nationally*-known Canadian food company.
5. When the government runs a *census*, people answer questions about their age, family, languages, home, and other information.
6. To help the city run smoothly as it grows, City Hall *released* a new plan to invest more in public transit and roads.

Listening

1. The census took place in which year?
2016 (last year)
2. How many people live in Calgary, according to the census?
more than 1.4 million
3. Does this number represent the people in central Calgary only?
No – it's the greater Calgary area
4. Calgary is now slightly larger than which Canadian city?
Ottawa-Gatineau
5. According to the census, what has happened to Alberta's population?
it has grown
6. What is Alberta's population as of 2016?
more than 4 million
7. Alberta's population is up by what percentage (%) since 2006?
more than 11%
8. Nationally, what is Canada's population?
more than 35 million people